3089

APPEAL,

BY

BISHOP CHASE,

IN BEHALF OF A

Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary

FOR

THE DIOCESE OF ILLINOIS.

THE following APPEAL has been drawn up by BISHOP CHASE, at the request of his Friends in this country; and the various documents have been quoted at their express desire. He regrets, that he should be laid under a seeming necessity of speaking much of himself, and of quoting documents which eulogize his proceedings.

BISHOP CHASE, late of Ohio, now of Illinois, is at this time in England; and begs leave most respectfully to address his Friends, and the Christian Community of this favoured land.

Nearly twelve years have passed since he once before presumed to do this, in behalf of the Fold of Christ then committed to his pastoral charge in the Diocese of Ohio.

As, notwithstanding all the dark clouds which at that time hung over his path, all that he then said and stated has proved to be true, even so he indulges the hope that his words now may be heard with favour; and that the Cause which he is about to plead, in the name of the Great and Heavenly Shepherd, for His sheep in the wilderness of Illinois, may meet with kind attention.

But, as many whom he now addresses may be unacquainted with the causes of his translation from the Episcopate of Ohio to that of Illinois, Bishop Chase thinks it his duty to give a brief history of such of his proceedings, from his leaving England to the present time, as may be relevant to his object.

In the summer of 1824, Bishop Chase returned from England to America, and was hailed with much joy by his beloved Diocese. As he had committed the power of locating the Theological Seminary, for which he had obtained the necessary funds in England, into the hands of the Convention of Ohio, he prevailed on them not to fix it in or near a town, but in the country; and on a large tract of land, which, being owned by the Institution, might be guarded from the means and temptations to vice. This object was accomplished on the then very wild and

0308

uncultivated, but now delightful and elevated spot; which, in honour of his noble and beloved benefactor, but now deceased and much-lamented friend, he named GAMBIER.

Bishop Chase took charge of this great and laborious work in person; because no one, who had the requisite ability, would undertake the task of directing the primary settlement, and of clearing off the wild wood, and of sleeping on the cold ground, for the sum which the funds of the Institution could reasonably afford. This, then, he was compelled to do himself: and, in remembering the sufferings which he then endured, it gives him pleasure to know that they were not in vain. First, was reared the camp on the naked ground—then, the log hut, in which he and his family lived for years—then a stone building for the Professor of Theology—then, the main building, 110 feet long and four stories in height, whose foundations were deep and large—then, the capacious Chapel, with its sacred chancel, was founded—and then, the many other dwellings. All of troubles past is pleasant in remembrance as the refreshing dew, and is mentioned here only as connecting history.

Foreseeing the advantages which would accrue to the Students preparing for Holy Orders, by having the power vested in the Theological Seminary of conferring Degrees in the Arts and Sciences without the trouble and expense of sending them to other merely Secular Colleges, Bishop Chase had applied to the State Legislature, in 1826, to grant to "the President and Professors of the said Theological Seminary"—the Bishop being, *ex officio*, President—the power of conferring such Degrees. This the Legislature of the State of Ohio readily did; and, according to the Bishop's request, allowed it to be done in the abbreviated and convenient "style and title of the President and Professors of Kenyon College"—the Bishop having given that name to the Institution, in honour of that worthy Nobleman who bears it—his much-esteemed friend and benefactor.

Bishop Chase continued his exertions in connection with the College till the year 1831, when many of his friends made known to him their judgment, that the power of conferring Degrees was vested, not in the President and Professors of the Institution as a Theological Seminary, but as a Literary College; thus, as Bishop Chase conceived, taking the Institution out of that Episcopal Superintendence and Controul which he could not, under all the circumstances of the case, conscientiously surrender. For the peace of the Church, therefore, as well as for his own peace of soul, he thought it his duty to resign his charge. It was an extraordinary case, and required an extraordinary sacrifice. He left the Diocese, therefore, with the partner of his toils and burdens, and their children, not knowing whither to turn his thoughts for support and food convenient for them: but, by the All-gracious God, who hitherto had guided his steps and been his support and stay, he was

3089

strengthened for this painful trial, and has now good reason to say that all has been well.

To shew that the peace of the Church, for which Bishop Chase resigned the Episcopate of Ohio, has been, by the blessing of God on that measure, secured, let the following extract from the Journals of the Convention of Ohio, and by them ordered to be published in the "Gambier Observer" in June last, suffice.

Ohio Convention.—The Convention of the Diocese of Ohio met at Cincinnati, on the 26th of June. A brief statement of the proceedings has been furnished, by order of the Convention, for publication in the Gambier Observer.—We have been accidently prevented from copying the account of the proceedings into our paper, as yet; and have only room at present to notice a gratifying Resolution in relation to the former Bishop of the Diocese, which is as follows:—

"On motion, it was Resolved, That this Convention have learned with great pleasure, that the Right Rev. Philander Chase, late of the Diocese of Ohio, has been called to preside over the councils of the Church in the State of Illinois; and that we earnestly entreat the Great Head of the Church to pour upon him the continual dew of His blessing, for the salvation of souls and the glory of the Redeemer's Kingdom."

But to return.—The support which Bishop Chase had received being now no longer enjoyed, he moved his family into the woods, on the almost-wilderness lands belonging to his niece's daughter, and the gift of her paternal grandfather. This place was about twenty miles from Gambier; and has been named by the Bishop the "Valley of Peace," in memorial of the mental satisfaction, which opened there to himself and his family.

Here he continued performing Divine Service every Sunday, and preaching the Gospel to his new neighbours, till the following spring and summer; when he again moved his family a distance of 300 miles, nearly westward, into the territory of Michigan. Here he did the work of an Evangelist, though not that of a Bishop; and this, not only in his own neighbourhood while rapidly settling, but in the regions for many miles round.

But subsequent events shewed that God had appointed him to a more extensive field of labour. The State of Illinois—a large portion of it 300 miles still farther west—was destined for his spiritual charge; and great was the struggle of his mind when this intimation of the Divine Will was providentially made known unto him. When the appointment was sent to him by the Secretary of the Convention newly formed in Illinois, there was no proffer of any reasonable earthly support: on the contrary, he was told that there was NO ABILITY to afford any: add to this, the consciousness of his declining years, incapacitating him for that great activity necessary in travelling through trackless regions, and for the endurance of that personal fatigue, privation, and suffering, which had been required of him while Ohio was settling, and which

8308

Illinois now, still more new and pathless, might again require. On the other hand, and to counteract these discouraging circumstances, there was imprinted on his remembrance the obligation of his consecration vows, "to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad" in the wilderness, and to "feed and provide for His children, who are bought with His death, and for whom He shed His blood." Earnestly did he pray for grace to follow, though at great distance, in the steps of God's servants in primitive days, who, through faith in the promises, found strength in the day of trial, and the means to perform the Divine Will where it was evidently required to be done.

On the 4th of May last, Bishop Chase set off from GILEAD, as he had called the place of his residence in Michigan; having in company the Rev. Samuel Chase and his Wife—the daughter of the Bishop's niece, and a worthy Lay Reader and Sunday-School Teacher. Their course was through Indiana, to Checago, on the shores of Lake Michigan—thence to Juliet, on the Deplain River—thence to Peoria, on the Illinois River—thence to Lewiston, and Rushville, and Beardston, and Springfield—thence to Jacksonville—and thence, back again, to Springfield, nearly in the middle of his Diocese; having travelled thus far about 500 miles, and having preached and performed Divine Service in all these places, and in others on the road where it could be done.

At Jacksonville, he found a neat brick church in building—the only one in the whole Diocese: the Rev. Mr. Batchelder is their worthy Missionary. At Checago, the Rev. Mr. Hallam officiates, in the same character. At Springfield he found a most interesting people, among whom an Episcopal Minister had never officiated: during the three Sundays which he passed there, a Parish was instituted—several were baptized, and confirmed—and the Supper of the Lord was administered to twelve devout persons. Finding here an opportunity to institute a Classical School, he thought proper to leave it and the Parish in charge of the Rev. Samuel Chase, who, with his wife, had thus far accompanied him on his Visitation.

The above named Reverend Gentlemen—Batchelder, Hallam, and Chase—together with the Rev. Mr. Tullidge at Galena in the north-western county of the State, are the only officiating Ministers whom Bishop Chase at present has to assist in building up the Church of Christ in the immense Diocese committed to his care. It will be needless to state how the feebleness of his means, compared with the greatness of the work before him, affects his heart. The settlement of the country, the whole land being fit for the plough, is going on with a rapidity never before witnessed.

Nearly One Hundred Thousand people are supposed to flow into the State of Illinois every year: and, of these, many are from the United Kingdom and other British Dominions; and a considerable portion of

them, as Bishop Chase has witnessed even in his rapid tour, are devoutly attached to the pure and primitive faith and worship of the United Church. Is he, then, out of the way of duty or reasonable propriety, in coming to this blessed land for help?—Something must be done, and that quickly, on the spot. The Protestant Episcopal Church in America having so much to do, cannot do all that is required.

The emigration from Europe is so great, in the Valley of the Mississippi especially—and he is sorry to say, that among them there is a great proportion of Jesuits and other Romanists, whose object it is to corrupt the faith once delivered to the saints—that it needs the united efforts of all Protestants, in giving the Means of Grace to keep the rising generation from falling back into the ignorance and superstition of the dark ages.

While Bishop Chase was closing his Visitation at Springfield, he received Letters signifying that it was the earnest wish of the best friends of the Church, that, instead of, at present, pursuing his journey in Illinois, he would come in time to the Atlantic States, and attend personally the approaching Convention of the whole Episcopal Church, which was to meet in August at Philadelphia — his family in Michigan, who had forwarded these Letters, giving him to understand, that enough of his substance was disposed of, to enable him to defray his expenses in so long a journey. With this view, he set off, alone, on the 28th of June, through the trackless prairies, toward Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois, where he preached in the evening of the 2d of July: thence, passing up the Wabash River, through William Port, to Lafayette, he performed Divine Service and preached there twice on Sunday the 5th: thence he proceeded to Logan's Port, and thence, due north, through the woods, to South Bend, on the St. Joseph's River; and thence home to his family in Michigan, on the 9th day of July. The whole course from Springfield was upward of 300 miles. His course thence to Philadelphia was through Tecumseh, Monroe, and the Lake Erie; Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, Albany, and New York—the distance not far from 1000 miles.

The reception with which Bishop Chase was honoured in the General Convention, and the good-will and harmony which prevailed in that Venerable Body in relation to him and his late proceedings in Illinois, will appear from the following extract of a Periodical Paper of the 5th of September last, issued under the supervision of the Right Rev. Dr. Doane, Bishop of New Jersey:—

An interesting circumstance of the occasion was the presence of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Chase, who, since his resignation of the Diocese of Ohio, in 1831, had been performing most laborious missionary duty in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. He had been absent from the preceding General Convention, and was now present as Bishop of Illinois. The ratification of this act, and the admission of Illinois, as a Diocese completely organized, with a Bishop at its head, by an unanimous vote of both Houses, was in beautiful anticipation of the unity with which every succeeding measure of importance was adopted. The veteran

Bishop, a soldier of the Cross, whom hardships never have discouraged, whom no difficulties seem to daunt, and who enters now upon his new campaign with all the chivalry of thirty-five, was cordially welcomed to his seat among the counsellors of the Church.

During the latter part of the Session of the General Convention, a Meeting was held of many of the Bishops and Clergy, with a large assemblage of the Laity; in which Addresses were delivered in behalf of the Far-West and the Mississippi Valley, and which resulted in the following

APPEAL FOR ILLINOIS.

By the blessing of God, Illinois has, within six months, become a Diocese. With the three primitive orders of the Christian Ministry complete, and with that indefatigable prelate, Bishop Chase, at her head as Diocesan, she was, last month, with great unanimity and harmony, received into union with the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

Already, then, at this early day, has our standard been erected upon the fertile and sunny prairies of Illinois, and the banner of Christ and his Church, with the motto, "Only in the Cross," been unfurled to the view of the many thousands, who are continually hastening thither, to establish themselves in that most delightful portion of the Upper Valley of the Mississippi.

Brethren, shall this banner continue to float upon the breeze in that Far-Western Region, gladdening the hearts of those who are remote from the homes of their fathers, and leading them on to victory and salvation? Yes: the work, so auspiciously begun, will go forward, to the glory of God. That interesting field of Christian Labour, to which Providence seems now to call the special attention of all Christians, and particularly of Churchmen, shall be occupied. We will open our hearts and our hands to the venerable and beloved servant of the Most High, who has, with the self-denial, the zeal, and the devotedness to our Holy Cause which distinguished his earlier days, again taken his stand, in the evening of life, at the head of the soldiers of Christ upon our frontier. There we behold him renewing the energies of his youth, and, as the mighty tide of population rolls on, enlarging westward the boundaries of that Church to which his fortune, his health, his whole life, have been cheerfully sacrificed. The founder of the Church in the then wilds of Western New-York—the Missionary who first introduced the Protestant Religion into the State of Louisiana—the founder of Kenyon College, appears, girded for the battles of the Lord. His voice is heard from the Great River of the West and from the confines of the Ouisconsin and Northwestern Territories, calling for help in his great undertaking. His call will not be in vain. From the East shall be echoed back to our destitute and struggling brethren in the West, the ready response of love, and sympathy, and Christian liberality. We will do our duty to them, to their Apostolic Bishop, and to the Church. We will encourage their hearts and strengthen their hands, and bid them go forward as conquerors under the banner of Christ Jesus.

Under a deep sense of the interesting duty which the providence of God had thus devolved upon us, a large meeting in behalf of the Church at the West was held in Philadelphia. Our endeavours for the destitute States were countenanced by the presence of eight of our Bishops, and a great number of the clergy. At a subsequent meeting, the following Resolutions were proposed; and are now given to the Church, requesting her sanction and adoption.

Resolved, That the Right Rev. Bishop CHASE has our entire approbation and our heartfelt sympathy in his present work and labour of love and duty to the Church of Christ in Illinois; and that we will aid him in the same, by our prayers, and by all reasonable endeavours.

Resolved, That the wants of Illinois appear to be threefold. 1. Of means to educate young men for the ministry in the land where they will be inclined to stay—"sons of the soil." For this purpose a Seminary should be established, and provided with suitable Professors, under the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese. 2. Of means for the building of Churches. 3. Of means for obtaining and supporting faithful and devoted Missionaries, who, with the venerable Prelate at their head, shall unweariedly labour to gather the people, everywhere, into congregations, as they come into the State, and build them up, in the true faith of Christ, into a holy temple acceptable unto the Lord.

Before the Appeal was duly prepared, the Convention was closed, and the Bishops had departed to their respective Dioceses. The Venerable Bishop White, however, and the Right Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, Assistant Bishop of Philadelphia, were in town, and gave their signatures: the Right Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk, Bishop of New York, also, sent to Bishop Chase the subjoined Letter:—

I regard the recent organization of the Diocese of Illinois, under the Episcopal Superintendence of the Right Rev. Bishop Chase, as an event highly auspicious to our Church in the immense Western Region of this Republic. The exertions, however, of the few and feeble Churches in that Diocese need to be furthered, and the hands of its Diocesan strengthened, by the aid of more-favoured portions of the Church. Whatever application to this end may be made by Bishop Chase, or in his name, and under his authority, will, I hope, be favourably and liberally responded to by the members of the Diocese of New York.

Having thus stated, in detail, his proceedings in the Diocese of Ohio, and the circumstances which subsequently led to his being appointed to the Episcopate of Illinois, with his prospects and hopes respecting his new sphere of labour, Bishop Chase respectfully offers the following summary to the British Friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

The State of Illinois contains an area of nearly 60,000 square miles, forming a large portion of the Great Valley of the Mississippi. The present population consists of from THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND individuals, who are annually increasing, to the amount of not less than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND. A large portion of these Emigrants are from Great Britain and Ireland. The Romanists have long directed their attention to the Valley of the Mississippi. Supported by a Missionary College (the Leopoldine Institution) at Vienna, and by ample funds from other parts of Europe, they are leaving no efforts unattempted to pervert ignorant and unwary Protestants, and subjugate them to the Papal See. To compete with them, Bishop Chase has, as yet, in his

New Diocese, only Five Clergymen and one Lay-Reader. In America, the friends and supporters of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who have incessant demands on their money and personal labours, are doing all they can, in the raising of funds for building a Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary for the Diocese of Illinois. But funds are wanted, for the endowment of Professorships and Scholarships, and for furnishing a Library necessary for the training of well-instructed Missionaries, for propagating the pure doctrines of the Reformation professed by the United Church of England and Ireland, and by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

The Right Hon. Lord Kenyon, the Right Hon. Lord Bexley, the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Mann, and other influential persons here, who formerly aided Bishop Chase with their counsels and their donations, have assured him of their sincere and friendly support: and he feels convinced that the Christian Bounty and Sympathy, with which he was favoured twelve years ago, will not be withheld, on the present occasion, from the destitute Diocese of Illinois. He has the happiness already to acknowledge the following

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Lady Rosse	100	0	0
Ditto, Second Subscription	160	0	0
Lord Kenyon	100	0	0
Lord Bexley	50	0	0
Mrs. Vansittart	10	0	0
W. L. Gower, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss L. Gower	5	0	0
2 Cor. vi	5	0	0
Miss E. Prescott	1	0	0
Miss Frowd	1	0	0
Laicus	5	0	0
Miss E. Cartwright	20	0	0
E. D. H., by Mr. Nisbet	10	0	0
From Coleford	3	0	0
S. W	0	10	0
Mrs. Roberts	10	0	0
O. M. W	5	0	0
Miss Hoare	10	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
Rev. J. Hooper	1	0	0
S. Y	2	0	0
A. C.	5	0	0
Rev. Edward Aubrey	20	0	0
Mrs. Weyland	10	0	0
W. R. Farquhar, Esq.	5	0	0
Rev. Josiah Pratt	5	0	0
Lady Buller	5	0	0
Rev. W. Dodsworth	5	0	0
W. B. Hudson, Esq.	5	0	0
A. G. Ralston, Esq.	10	0	0
Mrs. A. G. Ralston	10	0	0
George Simpson, Esq.	10	0	0
M. Brimmer, Esq.	10	0	0
James Keith, Esq.	5	0	0
A. F. Stoddard, Esq.	5	0	0
H. Keep, Esq.	5	0	0
Rev. T. Hartwell Horne	5	0	0
Mr. William Strode Fowler	2	2	0
Mrs. Anne M'Taggart	1	0	0
T. Wiggin	20	0	0
Rev. Josiah Pratt, jun.	2	2	0

Subscriptions will be received at the Banking Houses of Messrs. Barnetts, Hoare, and Co., 62, Lombard Street; Messrs. Praeds, Mackworth, Fane, and Praed, 189, Fleet Street; Messrs. Drummond, Charing Cross; and Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co., 16, St. James's Street: and at the following Booksellers — Mr. Mortimer, 2, Wigmore Street; Messrs. James Nesbit and Co., 21, Berners Street; Messrs. Hatchard and Son, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. Rivington, 3, Waterloo Place, Regent Street; Messrs. L. and J. Seeley, 169, Fleet Street; and Mr. Edward Suter, 19, Cheapside.

*** Bishop Chase will thankfully receive Donations of Books, for the use of the Illinois Theological Seminary. Any benevolent persons, who may be pleased thus to assist him in forming a Library for the Students, may send their presents to the care of Mr. Mortimer, Bookseller, 2, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square; or, on a line being addressed to Mr. Mortimer, he will send for such books.

[Richard Watts, Printer, Crown Court, Temple Bar.]